

OSCAR TO SMASH ASIAN TRANSFER RECORD

Chelsea's Oscar is set to smash the Asian transfer record with a big-money move to Shanghai SIPG after the clubs agreed terms on a reported 70.5 million euros deal on Friday. The 25-year-old Brazil midfielder is due in the Chinese city "in the coming days" to complete the signing, which was announced by both Shanghai SIPG and Chelsea. "Shanghai SIPG has formally completed the transfer agreement of Brazil football player Oscar with Chelsea," the Chinese club said on its official social media account. "Oscar will arrive in Shanghai in the coming days to officially join SIPG." Oscar will become China's fifth Asian-record signing in less than a year. Oscar will also become Chelsea's most lucrative sale, beating compatriot David Luiz's £50 million (\$58.7 million euros) move to Paris Saint Germain in 2014.

—AFP



Sirajul crowned champion

SPORTS REPORTER



Sirajul Islam of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) clinched the title of the first Fortune Tour de Bangladesh after overcoming a seven-point deficit against his mentor and race leader Ripon Kumar Biswas in an entertaining final stage in Dhaka yesterday.

Coming into the third and final stage, held over seven laps around the inner circle of Hatirjheel Lake in the capital, the overnight second-placed Sirajul racked up 15 points from the stage.

Ripon, who led his younger teammate by seven points after the end of the second stage on Wednesday, finished out of contention for points in the final round, eventually ending the race with his previous 30 points.

That allowed 28-year-old Sirajul to clinch the top position with 45 points and win a check of Tk 300,000. Alamgir Hossain of Bangladesh Army finished with 37 points, but was adjudged to have finished third behind Ripon due to his inferior finish in the opening stage. Ripon grabbed Tk 200,000 while Alamgir received Tk 100,000 for his efforts.

"I didn't think I would win because Ripon da was far ahead of me coming into this round," said an elated Sirajul after his surprise victory. "I would have been happy had I ended in second

position and Ripon da won as he is the one who brought me to BGB."

Sirajul, the son of a day labourer from Jessore, has been in cycling for more than 12 years but came into limelight in 2008 when he won two gold medals [15km and elimination race] in the national cycling championship while representing Chittagong District Association.

"Ripon da was the one who told me to come to BDR [now BGB] after watching my performance. And since then I've won five more gold, 10 silver

said that they could take heart from what they had seen in the first edition.

"The response has been pretty good from the people, both in Bagerhat and Gopalganj and also in Dhaka. We have got support from the cycling federation and local administration, so we are quite happy. Most importantly the timing of the competitors has exceeded our expectations," Asaduzzaman said.

"However, we think 40 cyclists is not a big enough number and that three plain land stages are not adequate if we

PODIUM FINISHES

Champion	Sirajul Islam	(BGB)	45 pts	Tk 300,000
Runner-up	Ripon Kumar Biswas	(BGB)	37 pts	Tk 200,000
Third	Alamgir Hossain	(Army)	37 pts	Tk 100,000

and one bronze medal in national championships. I am indebted to him."

Sirajul's crowning moment capped off the three-stage Fortune Tour de Bangladesh, the first long distance cycling competition of the country styled after Tour de France. The organisers of the race took encouragement from the response and promised that the race would be arranged in a broader and more organised manner in the coming years.

Shoeb Mohammad Asaduzzaman, head of sales and marketing of sponsors Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited,

want to turn this event into an international standard one. So we are planning to increase the number of stages as well as number of participants from the next year," he added.

Asaduzzaman also informed that a talent hunt programme would be held early next year under the guidance of an International Cycling Union judge to find more potential cyclists for the next edition.

Imtiaz Khan Babul, the general secretary of Bangladesh Cycling Federation, thanked everyone involved with the race for making it a success.

Saif SC back on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Saif Sporting Club retained their lead in the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League after playing out a goalless draw against Kawran Bazar Progati Sangha at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

With their sixth draw in 10 matches, Saif SC climbed back to top of the eight-team table with 18 points, one more than Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club and Agrani Bank SC, who are in joint second position with 17 points.

Karwan Bazar PS were at sixth position with 10 points from as many matches.

PSG agree Draxler deal

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain have agreed a deal with Wolfsburg to sign German World Cup-winning midfielder Julian Draxler for 36 million euros (£30.5m, \$37.5m), according to the website of French sports daily L'Equipe.

Draxler, 23, is on the market after a difficult first half to the season with a struggling Wolfsburg side and was widely expected to leave in the January transfer window.

"Those who want to leave should go! That should have been done in the summer," an annoyed Wolfsburg striker Mario Gomez recently told German television.

Shirin the fastest again

SPORTS REPORTER



Shirin Akter retained the distinction as the country's fastest woman yesterday by winning the women's 100m sprint event of the 40th National Athletics Championship, clocking 12.01 seconds (hand timing) at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

This is the fourth consecutive 100m

sprint title from teammate MA Rouf on route to his fifth consecutive gold medal, Shirin hardly broke a sweat to reach the finish line well ahead of her teammate Shohagi Akter. Shohagi finished second at 12.20 seconds while Bangladesh Army's Barsha Khatun won bronze with a time of 12.37 seconds.

"To be honest, this time I had to toil especially hard compared to how I prepared for previous competitions as I had little free time in between class



PHOTO: STAR

Shirin Akter flies the Bangladesh Navy flag after retaining the crown of the country's fastest female sprinter during the second day of the 40th National Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

sprint title the athlete from Bangladesh Navy has collected from the National Athletics Championship along with one from the Summer Athletics Championship. She had finished sixth in the South Asian Games in Guwahati, India earlier this year with a time of 12:43 seconds (electronic timing) despite clocking 11.99 seconds in the heats.

While her colleague, the fastest man Mezbah Ahamed, faced stiff competi-

tion from teammate MA Rouf on route to his fifth consecutive gold medal, Shirin hardly broke a sweat to reach the finish line well ahead of her teammate Shohagi Akter. Shohagi finished second at 12.20 seconds while Bangladesh Army's Barsha Khatun won bronze with a time of 12.37 seconds.

and exams. So retaining the gold medal this time is special for me," expressed Shirin, a second year student of Islamic History at Rajshahi University. She also went on to thank Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan for arranging her training.

And although Shirin improved on the time she set during the meet's previous edition by 0.19 seconds, it was not enough to surmount her own

best time of 11.84 seconds (hand timing) set at the same event in 2014.

"I thought the competition would be very hard as Shohagi also had good preparation but thankfully I finished ahead of her," said Shirin.

In spite of Bangladesh Navy dominating both the men's and women's 100m sprint events, rivals Bangladesh Army trumped Navy by claiming the 200m sprint title as MA Rouf sustained a hamstring injury within 100 meters of the start.

However Shariful Islam, who won three straight 200m titles in the Summer Athletics and National Athletics Championship, definitely deserves the credit.

Shariful took 21.51 seconds, 0.15 seconds less than silver winner Saiful Islam of BKSP while Al Amin of Bangladesh Ansar won the bronze medal clocking 21.70 seconds.

"We were determined to win both gold medals in 100m and 200m but we lost the 100m title to Bangladesh Navy. We however retained the 200m title and it is my third straight gold in 200m sprint," said Bangladesh Army sprinter Shariful, who was eliminated from the heats in the SA Games.

"We are not in a position to win medals at international events with two or three months of training. To tell you the truth, athletes from other countries mocked us during the SA Games when they learnt that we had arrived with four months of training. They even mocked us by asking whether we went there for a visit," said Shariful.

Shirin also echoed Shariful's sentiments and demanded proper training for everyone ahead of the next SA Games in Nepal.

"I want to exploit my Olympic Games experience in the next SA Games to win at least a medal but we need long-term and improved training as well as ensured nutrition for that," said Shirin.

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Milan clinch Super Cup

AFP, Doha



AC Milan beat Juventus to win the Italian Super Cup on Thursday in a penalty shootout, the first trophy the Rossoneri have won since 2011.

Mario Pasalic blasted home the final spot kick to give AC Milan a 4-3 victory on penalties after a hard fought 1-1 deadlock at 90 minutes and after extra time in Doha.

Mario Mandzukic and Paulo Dybala missed their spot kicks for Juventus, with Gianluca Lapadula the only Milan player not to convert his penalty.

Juve, Italian league and cup double winners last season, had taken the lead in 18th minute after Giorgio Chiellini prodded home a Miralem Pjanic corner.

At that stage it was all Juventus, but they were pegged back just before half-time when Giacomo Bonaventura beautifully glanced home a Fernandez Suso cross.

Juventus thought they had won in the 11th minute when Patrice Evra scored but he was ruled offside and Dybala missed a great chance, spooning a shot over from eight yards with just four minutes remaining.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

TO THE VERY FIRST 3 WINNERS FROM THE FIRST SEASON OF

Fortune TOUR DE BANGLADESH 2016

Champion: Shirajul Islam-BGB
1st Runner-up: Ripon Kumar Biswas-BGB
2nd Runner-up: Alamgir Hossain-Bangladesh Army